

Wombwell Urban District Council.



REPORT

— OF —

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE

YEAR 1900.



Wombwell :

TAYLOR BROS., GENERAL PRINTERS, STATION ROAD.

JANUARY 6TH, 1901.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WOMBWELL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present you with my Report for the year 1900.

The following is a Summary of Vital Statistics.

Population at 1891 Census	...	...	...	...	10,942
Population estimated to middle of 1900	...	...	...	...	13,895
Total Deaths registered (including those dying in Hospitals and Asylum)	...	...	...	...	229
Corrected death-rate per 1000 of estimated Population	..	...	...	...	16·4
Total Births registered	...	...	...	...	548
Birth-rate per 1000 estimated Population	...	...	...	...	39·4
Zymotic death-rate per 1000 ... i.e.: from the 7 principal Zymotic Diseases	...	...	...	...	2·37
Phthisis (consumption death-rate)	...	...	...	...	0 64
Respiratory death-rate (all other diseases of the lungs)	...	...	...	...	2·9
Infantile Mortality per 1000 Births	...	...	...	...	179
Notifications received of Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	118
Notification rate per 1000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	8·49

These figures form in themselves an epitome of the Sanitary state of the District, and they compare most favourably indeed with those of former years. The death-rate (16·4) is lower than last year (17·7) and is slightly below the average of the West Riding C.C. District for 1898; whilst the Zymotic death-rate is only half of 1899. There are 21 more births

and 14 fewer deaths than last year. The infant mortality is increased by 10 per 1000, and the Notification rate is raised from 6·5 to 8·49 per 1000 of the population, owing to Scarlet Fever.

In Table No. iv. will be found the No. (98) and causes of deaths under 1 year. This is a very large per centage of the total number of deaths from all causes, viz: 229. Premature birth claims 9, but I may add that 13 more were due to congenital causes, rendering the child too weak to live beyond a few days or weeks.

Details of Births and Deaths.

Births Male	277	
„ Female	271	

Total ...	548	Birth-rate 39·4 per 1000.
Deaths Male	120	
„ Female	104	
	-----	224
Deaths in Hospital & Asylum ...	5	

Total ...	229	Death-rate 16·4 per 1000.

Increase of Births over Deaths 319.

The number of births includes 18 illegitimate. The Coroner has held 3 Inquests.

I append a table of Mortality for the different Sections of the Urban district.

TABLE I.

DISTRICT.				No.
Wombwell proper	...	...		148
Wombwell Main	...	...		9
Hemingfield	...	...	...	14
Jump	...	...	...	32
Broomhill	...	...	...	21
In Hospitals and Asylum	...			5
TOTAL				229

Population.

I estimate this to be at the middle of the year 13,895.

TABLE No. II.
WOMBWELL URBAN DISTRICT.
FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Mid'le of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.	
		Number	Rate.	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1891	11,013	510	46.3	93	182	222	20.2
1892	11,301	523	46.3	81	156	213	18.8
1893	11,597	494	42.6	107	217	276	23.8
1894	11,901	473	38.9	61	132	164	13.8
1895	12,212	561	45.9	106	189	245	20.1
1896	12,531	543	43.3	81	149	196	15.9
1897	12,860	540	42.0	90	167	228	17.9
1898	13,196	556	42.1	96	173	204	15.5
1899	13,541	527	38.9	89	169	241	17.8
1900	13,895	548	39.4	98	179	227	16.3
Averages for years 1891--1900	12,404	527	42.57	90	171	221	18.01

The foregoing Table shows, during the last 10 years ending 1900, the yearly increase of the population, as estimated by intercensal data, the number of births and

deaths in each year, the rates derived therefrom, and the Infantile Mortality. When the last census was taken (April 1891) the population numbered 10,942, and at the middle of the same year 11,013. As I have already stated, at the middle of the past year, calculation from similar data places it at 13,895, showing an increase of 2,953. This number does not differ much from that derived from the excess of births over deaths. The number of births registered from January 1st, 1891 to December 31st, 1900 being 5,275, whilst the deaths occurring in the same time were 2196—the difference therefore being 3,079. The average birth-rate and death-rate for the decade are respectively 42·57 and 18·01 per 1000. At the census of 1891, there were in the old Local Board District 1987 houses. At this date in the same Urban District there are 2534, 59 of which were built during the past year. The average number of persons per house at last census was $5\frac{1}{2}$. I do not think the present average is less; but the coming census must tell its own tale. In former reports, I have mentioned returns from different sections of the District, but as these are not arbitrary Divisions, there are no census returns for them, I cannot therefore give you separate rates. As however the district is now to be divided into 5 Wards, it would facilitate my work, if the Council could obtain census returns for each Ward. This would enable me to give a more minute report regarding each locality, as to its RATES, SANITARY DEFECTS, AND IMPROVEMENTS. Looking backwards, I find the years 1893 and 1894 afford a marked contrast. The former has the highest death-rate (23·8) of the decade, and the greatest mortality among children. In that year also, Smallpox, which had not been seen in Wombwell for 21 years (excepting 3 cases of “birds of passage” in a travelling Van the year before) was introduced by means of an un-vaccinated child in a Public House. There were 20 cases in all, but the disease was literally stamped out, thanks to means (not under our control in 1892) viz: Notification and Hospital Isolation.

This same year is also conspicuous for a prevalence of Typhoid Fever. Two districts—New Wombwell and Jump were more particularly affected. Improved sewage disposal and eradication of old drains have well nigh banished the disease from these districts. On the other hand 1894 was characterized by the lowest death-rate of the decade (13·8) per 1000, by fewer births, and less disease of all sorts. Two of its months however had the highest and lowest death-rates I have known here—viz: 50 per 1000 in January (owing to weather illness) and 3·2 per 1000 in May. The years '94, '95 & '96 were “Scarlet Fever” years. Always

of a mild type, it was therefore more difficult to control as to its spread, and although 350 cases were notified in the 3 years, only 10 deaths were registered.

It may interest you to give you here the number of cases of Typhoid Fever, for the last 10 years :—

YEAR.	No.	No. DIED.	PROPORTION DYING.
1891	10	5	50 per cent.
1892	20	2	10 do.
1893	52	8	15·3 do.
1894	15	2	13·3 do.
1895	11	5	45·4 do.
1896	17	3	17·6 do.
1897	46	10	21·7 do.
1898	24	7	21·1 do.
1899	14	5	35·7 do.
1900	15	4	26·6 do.
	<hr/> 224	<hr/> 51	<hr/> 256·7
Averages for years 1891-1900.	<hr/> 22·4	<hr/> 5·1	<hr/> 25·67

Sanitary Reform.

I may here mention some of the means adopted towards Sanitary Reform :—

The Adoption of Public Health Acts Amendment Act, giving increased powers of dealing with certain Nuisances.

The revision of the Bye-laws, resulting in the adoption of the “Model Bye-laws”.

A Sewage Scheme for the whole district.

Increased accomodation for Infectious diseases at the Kendray Hospital, and Smallpox at the New Combined Hospital.

The thorough examining, and re-modelling of Slaughter Houses, and the enforcement of regulations for them.

Paving and channelling of back-yards, and the erection of W.Cs. in place of offensive privy-middens on old properties, have received more attention with good results.

Tents, Vans, and Movable Dwelling-house Bye-laws adopted.

Milk Supply has been carefully watched.

In addition, many new streets have been well made and dedicated.

Wombwell Urban District.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1900.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							Total Cases Notified in each Locality.					No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.				
	At all Ages.	AT AGES—YEARS.						Wombwell Proper.	Wombwell Main	Hemingfield	Jump	Broomhill	Wombwell Proper	Wombwell Main	Hemingfield	Jump	Broomhill
		Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards										
Diphtheria ...	6		2	2	2			5	1								
Membranous Croup ...	4		4					3				1					
Erysipelas ...	8	1				6	1	3			3	2					
Scarlet fever ...	84	1	24	56	3			60	4	9	3	8	31	1	3	2	7
Enteric fever ...	15		1	2	4	7	1	8		1	4	2	3				1
Puerperal fever...	1				1			1									
Totals ...	118	2	31	60	10	13	2	80	5	10	10	13	34	1	3	2	8

TABLE IV.
WOMBWELL URBAN DISTRICT.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1900.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Measles	1		1					2
Scarlet Fever	1			1				
Whooping-cough	1		1					
Diphtheria & membranous croup .	6		5	1				
Fever, Enteric	4			1		3		
Epidemic Influenza	2					2		
Diarrhoea	18	16	2					
Enteritis	11	8	2	1				
Puerperal Fever	1				1			
Erysipelas	1	1						
Other septic diseases	1	1						
Phthisis	9			1	2	5	1	
Other tubercular disease	13	8	4	1				
Cancer, malignant disease	5				1	4		
Bronchitis	25	12	6	1		1	5	
Pneumonia	24	16	2		1	4	1	
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...	2		1				1	
Alcoholism								
Cirrhosis of Liver } ...	2					2		
Premature birth ..	9	9						
Diseases & accidents of parturition ..	1					1		
Heart diseases	13					11	2	
Accidents	4		2	1		1		1
In Asylum								2
All other causes ..	71	27	3	1	11	10	19	
All causes ...	224	98	29	8	16	44	29	5

Notifications.

The number of Notifications exceeds 1899 by 29. I regret that these have not been sent in to me as promptly as ought to be. One case of Scarlet Fever did not reach for several days after the knowledge of it. The mother complained to me bitterly about its non-removal to Hospital. I regret to say it died there after removal. Again a case of Typhoid Fever did not come to my notice till after death and Registration.

Scarlet Fever

was more or less prevalent throughout every month in the year; but there was never any serious outbreak (altho' at one time it seemed so) and only 3 died. I sent to Hospital 44 out of the 84 cases notified, but the continued prevalence is no doubt due to ignorance and culpable negligence. For instance, I ascertained one case had travelled from here to a neighbouring town, resided a few days, and returned in the peeling stage.

Measles

of a very mild type broke out occasionally, and were responsible for one death.

Infantile Diarrhoea

of an Epidemic character was again prevalent in the Autumn. In the table you will find 18 deaths due to this in children under one year, but 8 of them were returned under the head of Enteritis, Gastro Enteritis, or Enteric Catarrh, and as it was in the epidemic time I have included them under the Diarrhoea head. Last year I put on record my opinions regarding this disease. Meteorological conditions were no doubt favourable for both this disease and Typhoid Fever, but I am sure if cleanliness in the surroundings of dwellings was more attended to as well as proper feeding, the mortality would not be so great.

Typhoid Fever.

There were returned to me 15 cases of this disease, between the months of July and December. There was never at any time any danger of an Epidemic. It is difficult sometimes to trace these sporadic cases to their origin, as the infection can be caught away from the environment of the dwelling; but out of these 15, 5 were most surely

imported, that is, they had contracted the disease outside our district; whilst another at Jump was due most certainly to glaring insanitary conditions, happily soon remedied. It was impossible to trace the others, but I could not find them associated with defective drainage. An uneasy feeling was general by the inhabitants of Barnsley Road and High Street, that cases there were caused by blocked drains. I consulted the Surveyor on the subject, and was assured all drains were in good working order, and I could not find any Sanitary defects. In the districts complained of, only 5 cases have occurred in 2 years, 3 of which were imported.

Sanitary Matters.

SEWAGE :—It is a matter for regret that your scheme has not yet reached completion. The following is the stage now reached :— 1st,—To deal with the Sewage from Broomhill, Station lane, New Scarbro', and Mitchell Main district, tanks have been erected, where it is chemically treated and then run over land. The result of this is "a good effluent". The Sewage from the main part of Wombwell proper is only at present receiving land treatment after passing out of roughly made tanks. Of course the effluent thus produced is by no means good, and it is desirable that the necessary tanks should be speedily erected.

2nd,—The Hemingfield Farm, which is for the treatment of the Sewage of New Wombwell, Lundhill, Wombwell Main, and Hemingfield, is nearly ready for full treatment, and in the meantime the tanks are used for clarification of the sewage. The Sewers are now laid throughout all the Council's area, but 3rd,—Jump Sewage cannot at present be treated.

This is the duty of the Hoyland Nether Urban District Council, consequent on a condition laid down by the L.G.B. when they gave permission for that Council to bring their Sewage into Wombwell Township. We have endeavoured to meet representatives, of the Hoyland Council, but did not succeed until 9th January, 1901. After much discussion, no definite result was arrived at, as no time could be fixed when the Hoyland Council could carry out their agreement.

Nuisances.

The Sanitary Committee have had before them for consideration 29 Nuisances of various sorts, specially reported to them. The greater number of these has been abated, but several still remain, which may be classed as "Hardy Annuals".

I refer to properties situate in Alma Street, Hawson Street, New Wombwell, Station Lane, Melville Street, and Park Street.

The Committee have also (with the Sanitary Officers) at various times made rounds of the District for personal inspection, with good results.

During the past year there have been constructed 15 Blocks of Privy-middens, and 4 Waste-water Closets, whilst 18 W.W.C. have been re-constructed. From the Notes supplied to me by the Sanitary Inspector, I find that since his appointment in March, 1896, there have been

Served for Abatement of Nuisances	...	366 Notices.
Improvements made in Privies, &c.	...	140
New Privies built ..	...	76
New Ashpits	...	62
Fresh-water Closets	...	5
Waste-water Closets	...	44
House-drains in various parts re-constructed		370

Slaughter Houses.

These have all been overhauled, put into a Sanitary condition, properly registered and licensed.

Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milk Purveyors have this year been registered, and the Sanitary condition of the whole of the Cowsheds is now receiving attention.

Water.

I need not remind you of the defective water supply, owing to structural defects in the reservoir, as the whole subject is at present receiving your careful consideration.

I am Gentlemen,

Obediently yours,

JOHN N. MILLAR, M.B. and M. Ch.

Medical Officer of Health.